

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09942 251758Z

62

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 251710Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2911

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9942

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PINS, IN

SUBJECT: ANANDA MARG

REF: STATE 156991

1. SARKAR'S FAST (HE IS REPORTED TO BE ABSTAINING FROM SOLID FOODS) PASSED THE ONE YEAR MARK IN APRIL AND WE HAVE NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT HE WILL TERMINATE IT UNTIL HIS FOUR "CONDITIONS" ARE MET. THE CONDITIONS ARE: "1. RESTORATION OF FACILITIES OF TAKING MEALS COOKED FROM HIS (SARKAR'S) RESIDENCE (COMMENT: SARKAR CLAIMS THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO POISON HIM IN JAIL. END COMMENT); 2. WITHDRAWAL OF FALSE CHARGES AGAINST ANANDA MARG WORKERS; 3. UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF SUCH WORKERS; 4. THE APPOINTMENT OF A JUDICIAL COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO HIS ALLEGED POISONING..."

2. ON JULY 10, AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE ON LEAVE IN BIHAR TALKED WITH AN ANAND MARGI WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE RECENTLY VISITED SARKAR IN JAIL. THE ANAND MARGI SAID THAT SARKAR'S PHYSICAL HEALTH HAS DETERIORATED BADLY BUT THAT HE IS STILL MENTALLY VERY ALERT.

3. LEGAL STATUS: ON JULY 17, THE MAGISTRATE HANDLING DARKAR'S CASE REJECTED BAIL PETITIONS FOR THE FOUR MARGIS WHO ARE AWAITING TRIAL WITH SARKAR. (AFTER APPEALS, SARKAR'S BAIL PETITION WAS REJECTED BY THE SUPREME COURT IN MARCH.) A MAY 20 PRESS REPORT
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 09942 251758Z

DATELINED PATNA STATED THAT ONE MORE MURDER CHARGE HAS BEEN

REGISTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST SARKAR. HE IS NOW CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE MURDER OF SEVEN PERSONS -- ALL ALLEGEDLY FORMER ANANDA MARG FOLLOWERS WHO DESERTED. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON A POSSIBLE TRAIL DATE.

4. WE ARE POUCHING TO NEA/INS AND CONGEN CALCUTTA COPIES OF A REPORT ON SARKAR'S CASE PREPARED BY A BRITISH LAWYER, ENGAGED BY AN ANAND MARG ORGANIZATION BASED IN THE WEST, WHICH MAY PROVE HELPFUL AS BACKGROUND MATERIAL.
KREISBERG

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